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**THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S®
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT TUSCAWILLA PARK IN OCALA - PRESENTED BY
GREYSTONE HEALTH NETWORK**

Walkers will raise critically needed funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Alzheimer's disease is the nation's sixth leading cause of death with numbers rapidly rising. Alzheimer's is also the only one among the top ten deadly diseases in our country with no known cause, effective treatments or cure.

Ocala, FL – August 26, 2014 – The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, this inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to reclaim the future for millions. The Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the largest fundraising event for the nation's sixth-leading cause of death – Alzheimer's disease.

This Saturday in Ocala, walkers will begin north of Downtown Square and walk along Tuscowilla Park for the three-mile inspirational journey that ends at the Promise Garden where walkers can place their flowers that honor their loved ones. This annual Ocala Walk to End Alzheimer's® also marks the kick off of the Alzheimer's Association Central and North Florida Chapter's nine scheduled Walks throughout the fall season.

“There has never been a greater need for the people of Ocala to join in the fight against Alzheimer's disease by participating in Walk to End Alzheimer's ®,” said Jim Samuelson, Walk Committee Chairman and owner of Home Instead Senior Care® in Ocala. “The money we raise goes to critically-needed research and the free support services that the Alzheimer's Association provides to our community. There is no cure for Alzheimer's. One in every three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. These numbers should be alarming to everyone,” he adds.

WHY THEY WALK: A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM WALKER, KRISTA SABBATIS: “I have had multiple family members diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer's and other similar diseases, and they have all impacted my life in ways I would have never expected. When my father became ill and it became apparent that he was forever changing, I became an emotional roller coaster with feelings of helplessness, guilt and sorrow. I began to regret every harsh word I had ever spoken, and began wishing that I could have just one more chance to tell him how much I love him. I often find myself wondering if he knows how great of a father he has been to my brother and I, as well as a loving husband for almost 50 years. I may not be able to change my father's diagnosis or future, but I want to help all those just like him who have yet to be diagnosed,” says Sabbatis. “The Alzheimer's Association has provided my family the information needed to better understand dementia and how to cope with the changes in our lives and in our loved ones. I could not imagine this journey without them and their support,” she adds.

In the greater Ocala area, there are over 14,000 people living every day with Alzheimer's disease and more than 140,000 in a 31-county territory. The Central and North Florida Chapter provides families information, referral, educational programs, training, support groups, care consultations, and safety services. The Chapter also supports Alzheimer's research and advocacy for public policy issues affecting those with dementia.

WALK DATE, WALK TIME and OFFICAL START: The Walk takes place on Saturday, September 6, 2014. Registration, check-in and photos begin promptly at 8:00am. The official ceremony begins at 9:00am.

LOCATION: The Walk will begin north of Downtown Square at Tuscawilla Park on Sanchez Avenue in Ocala.

THE WALK: The Alzheimer's Association *Walk to End Alzheimer's*® is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans and continues to lead the way with the annual *Walk to End Alzheimer's*® in hundreds of locations throughout the country.

Walk to End Alzheimer's® is more than a walk. It is an experience for hundreds of thousands of participants all over America. This year, the Central and North Florida Chapter expects approximately 1,000 walkers in Ocala on Saturday.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING:

Walkers will learn about Alzheimer's disease and how to get involved with this critical cause, from advocacy opportunities, the latest in Alzheimer's research and clinical trial enrollment to support programs and services.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. **Start or join a team today at alz.org/walk**

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